



# **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

Helena Area Resource Office  
930 Custer Avenue W  
Helena, MT 59620

June 30, 1998

TO: Governor's Office, Julie Lapeyre, Room 204, State Capitol, POB 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801  
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106, POB 201704, Helena, MT 59620  
Dept. Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, POB 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
    Director's Office  
    Fisheries Division  
    Wildlife Division  
    Parks Division  
    Lands Section  
    Legal Unit  
FWP Commissioners  
MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, POB 201202 Helena, MT 59620-1202  
MT State Parks Association, POB 699, Billings, MT 59103  
MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., POB 201800, Helena, MT 59620  
James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624  
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, POB 595, Helena, MT 59624  
George Ochenski, POB 689, Helena, MT 59624  
Broadwater County Commissioners, Courthouse, Townsend, MT 59644  
Jerry DiMarco, POB 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771  
MT Wildlife Federation, POB 1175, Helena, MT 59624  
Glen Hockett, 745 Doane Road, Bozeman, MT 59715  
Skyline Sportsman's Assoc., Box 173, Butte, MT 59701  
Jefferson Valley Sportsman's Assoc., POB 663, Whitehall, MT 59759  
Prickly Pear Sportsman's Assoc., 1721 Virginia Dale St., Helena, MT 59601  
Senator Dan Hurwitz, PO Box 585, White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645  
Representative Gay Ann Masolo, 20 Duck Drive, Townsend, MT 59644


Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to expand an existing parking lot at the Ray Creek access to the Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area (CFWMA) and build a new parking lot off Riley Road that would access the WMA. These parking lot projects are being proposed to provide additional parking and improved access to the WMA due to increased use of the area by recreationist, primarily hunters. These projects occur on the Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area, which is located approximately 1 mile north of Townsend, MT and is situated along the south end of Canyon Ferry Reservoir. The area is administered by the Bureau of Reclamation and is managed by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks under a special agreement with Reclamation.

*Broadwater*

Enclosed please find an **Environmental Assessment** for your review. The comment period for this proposal begins July 1, 1998 and will end at 5:00 p.m. on July 15, 1998. Please send any comments to Tom Carlsen, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, PO Box 998, Townsend, MT 59644.

Sincerely,

  
Michael Korn  
Helena Area Resource Coordinator

enc.

DRAFT

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed State Action Parking lot expansion/construction - Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area, Townsend, MT.

2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

3. Name of Project Ray Creek and Riley Road Parking Lots

4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)

5. If Applicable:

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date August 1998

Estimated Completion Date August 1998

Current Status of Project Design (% complete) 100 %

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)

Ray Creek - Broadwater Co., T7NR2E Section 4  
Riley Road - Broadwater Co., T7NR2E Section 9




7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

Acres		Acres	
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain . . . . .	<u>0</u>
residential . . . . .	<u>0</u>		
industrial . . . . .	<u>0</u>	(e) Productive:	
		irrigated cropland . .	<u>0</u>
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation	<u>3/4</u>	dry cropland . . . . .	<u>0</u>
		forestry . . . . .	<u>0</u>
• Wetlands/Riparian Areas . . . . .	<u>0</u>	rangeland . . . . .	<u>0</u>
		other . . . . .	<u>0</u>

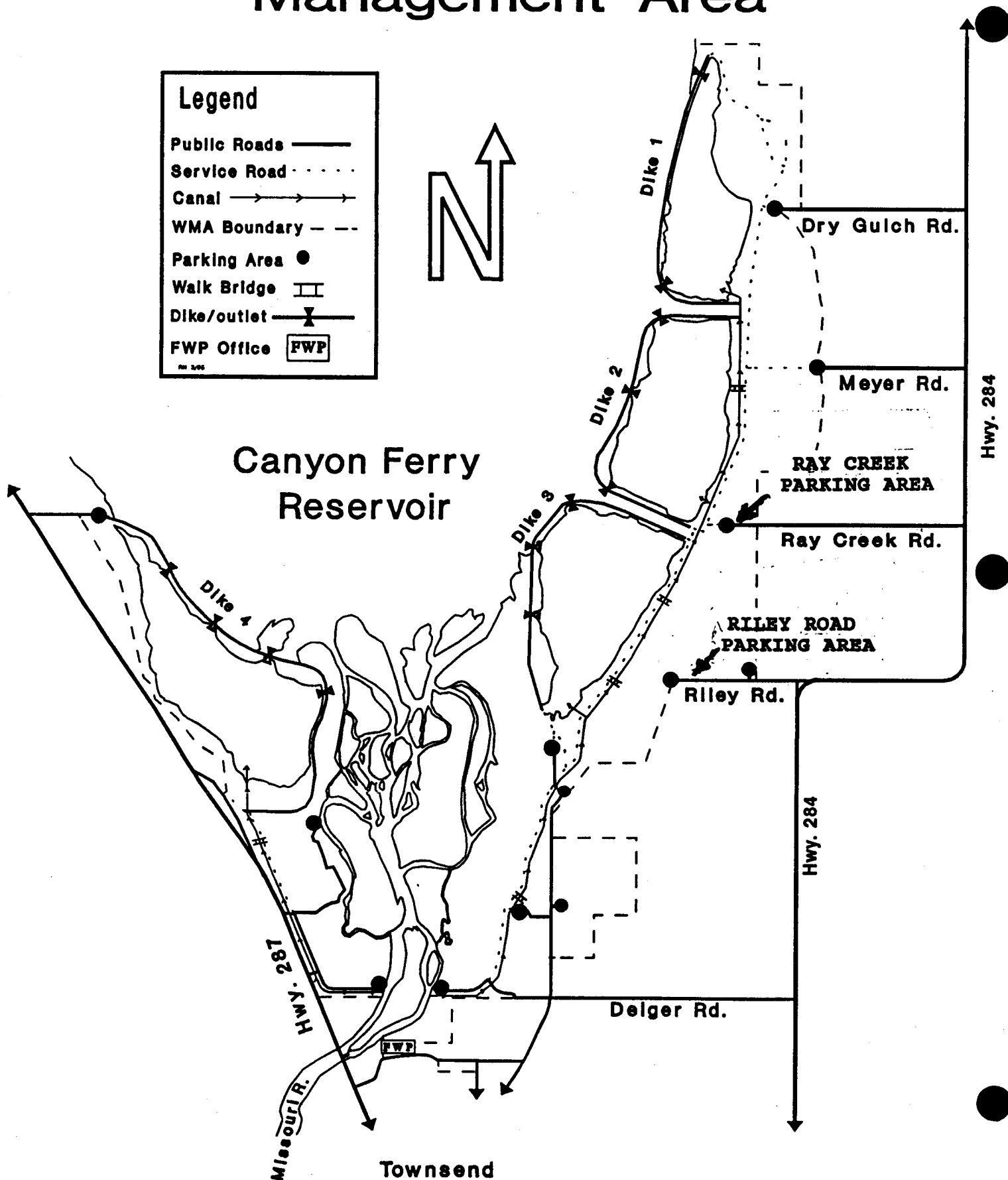
8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.

# Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area

**Legend**

- Public Roads ———
- Service Road ·····
- Canal ———→——→——→
- WMA Boundary - - -
- Parking Area ●
- Walk Bridge 
- Dike/outlet 
- FWP Office 

NO. 500



9. **Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.**

These projects occur on the Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area, which is located approximately 1 mile north of Townsend, MT and is situated along the south end of Canyon Ferry Reservoir. The area is administered by the Bureau of Reclamation and is managed by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks under a special agreement with Reclamation. The Proposed Action consists of expanding the existing parking lot at the Ray Creek access to the Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area (CFWMA) and building a new parking lot off Riley Road that would access the WMA. These parking lot projects are being proposed to provide additional parking and improved access to the WMA due to increased use of the area by recreationist, primarily hunters.

The Ray Creek access is the main parking area for accessing 2 of the ponds on the WMA. During opening day of waterfowl season 1997 there were over 50 vehicles parked in this one lot. Many hunters use boats to hunt from and because this parking lot is narrow and doesn't have the capacity to handle current use, it makes parking, especially with a boat trailer, very difficult. The proposed improvements to this parking area would be to widen and lengthen the lot to increase parking capacity and accessibility.

The Riley Road parking lot would be a small parking facility with a capacity of 6 vehicles. This parking lot would access one of the agricultural leases on the WMA that receives use primarily by upland bird hunters and waterfowl hunters field hunting. There currently is no parking facility in this vicinity and hunters park on the County Road.

Total estimated cost for the 2 parking lots is \$15,635.

10. **Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
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N/A

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
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Bureau of Reclamation	\$10,000
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(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional  
Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
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Bureau of Reclamation	Owner of property
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11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

Bureau of Reclamation

## PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
► a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X			X
► c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other (list)		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

Project proposes to cover idle ground with fill material to provide a parking surface. Due to the small acreage involved (0.75) there are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects on the Land Resources.

2. AIR	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
► a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		X				
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ♦For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		X				
f. Other		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):



Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.



Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)



Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects on Air.

3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comments Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
> a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)		X				
m. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		X				
n. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects on Water.

- ⊛ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- > Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X			X
b. Alteration of a plant community?			X			X
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				
f. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

Covering of ground may alter plant species, productivity or abundance and replace current vegetation with a less potentially productive surface. However, due to the small acreage and the fact that similar vegetation is not limited adjacent to the proposed parking lots there are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects on Vegetation.

5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)		X				

☆

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦

Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

I. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		X				
j. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects on Fish or Wildlife.

## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?		X				
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects in relation to Noise or Electric Effects.

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative

- ⊙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ▷ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.804-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

if needed):

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects in relation to Land Use.

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u>	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects in relation to Risk/Health Hazards.

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u>	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects in relation to Community Impacts.

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ◆ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
▶ e. Define projected revenue sources			X			X
▶ f. Define projected maintenance costs.			X			X
g. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects on Public Services/Taxes/Utilities.

11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
▶ c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)		X				
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		X				
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

These projects will enhance recreational opportunities on the WMA by providing for better access to the area. There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects on Aesthetics/Recreation.

- ⊙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric, historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There has been a cultural survey on the entire WMA in the past and recently a preliminary cultural review was conducted on both parking lot sites by the Bureau of Reclamation archeologist. There evidently was a homesite in a portion of the proposed expansion of the Ray Creek parking lot. On this site there will be no excavation of material. Some fill will be hauled in from off-site to level the area to grade. Therefore, there will be no surface disturbance other than the placing of fill material. On the Riley Road site a drainage ditch will be rerouted around the parking lot to insure the integrity of the drainage that ditch provides. Construction activities will be monitored and if any items are discovered which may be of potential cultural value are discovered, the Bureau of Reclamation archeologist will be immediately notified and construction activities halted until the items can be properly reviewed. Because there will be no surface disturbance in known cultural sites there are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects on Cultural/Historical Resources.

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				

☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

◆ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ♦For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		X				
g. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ⊙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.6.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

2. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

No Action Alternative - The expansion of the Ray Creek parking lot and the construction of the Riley Road lot would not be done.

3. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

Not Applicable

4. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

The appropriate level of analysis for these proposals is an Environmental Assessment (EA) and an EIS is not required. Based on this analysis there are no significant impacts on the Physical or Human Environment.

5. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

The EA was sent to a standard mailing list and put on the State bulletin board. A legal notice was also placed in the Townsend Star newspaper announcing the Proposed Action, detailing how to get information on the project, how to get copies of the EA, and how to comment on the proposal. A 15 day public comment period (July 1 through July 15, 1998) was set and this level of public involvement was felt to be appropriate given the magnitude of these projects.

6. Duration of comment period if any:

15 days.

7. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

Tom Carlsen  
Wildlife Biologist  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
P.O. Box 998  
Townsend, MT 59644  
406-266-3367

### PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

1 b. At the Ray Creek parking lot expansion, approximately one-half acre of idle ground will be covered with fill/surface material to provide for a parking surface. At the Riley Road site less than one-quarter acre will be covered with fill/surface material. Both areas are in a portions of an agricultural leases on the WMA that are not used for farming and due to the small acreage involved this impact on soil is considered to be minor.

4 a & b. Both sites currently are vegetated by non-native grass species.. The fill/surface material will cover this grass but due to the small area impacted (<0.75 acres) this is a very minor impact.

10 e. Funding for these projects will come from two sources with approximately \$5,635 coming from FWP as a Capital Expenditure and \$10,000 from Reclamation.

10 f. There will be some maintenance associated with these parking lots such as fence maintenance, signs, and parking lot surface maintenance. All these maintenance items occur on a very infrequent basis and will be incorporated into regular maintenance activities already occurring at other adjacent sites at little additional costs. Maintenance costs are estimated at around \$100-\$200 annually and funding will come out of existing budgets.



DRAFT

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed State Action Parking lot construction - Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area, Townsend, MT.
2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
3. Name of Project Pond 4 Access Site
4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)
5. If Applicable:

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date July 1999

Estimated Completion Date August 1999

Current Status of Project Design (% complete) 100 %

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)

51 Ranch - Broadwater Co., T7NR1E Section 11

7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

	Acres		Acres
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain . . . . .	<u>0</u>
residential . . . . .	<u>0</u>		
industrial . . . . .	<u>0</u>	(e) Productive:	
		irrigated cropland . .	<u>0</u>
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation	<u>3/4</u>	dry cropland . . . . .	<u>0</u>
		forestry . . . . .	<u>0</u>
• Wetlands/Riparian Areas . . . . .	<u>0</u>	rangeland . . . . .	<u>0</u>
		other . . . . .	<u>0</u>

8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.



9. **Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.**

This project is proposed for the Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area, which is located approximately 1 mile north of Townsend, MT and is situated along the south end of Canyon Ferry Reservoir (Figure 1). The area is administered by the Bureau of Reclamation and is managed by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks under a special cooperative agreement with Reclamation (No. 98-FC-60-09540, effective 9/15/97). The Proposed Action consists of building an access road, parking lot, handicapped-accessible interpretive overlook, and boat ramp along Pond 4 on the CFWMA. This project is being proposed to provide additional parking and improved access to the WMA due to increased use of the area by recreationists, both hunters and non-hunters.

The Pond 4 access will have a gravel road from Highway 12 to Pond 4, a 25 space parking lot, a handicapped-accessible viewing platform with interpretive signs, a trail from the platform to the pond, and a gravel boat ramp. Adequate signage would be erected along Highway 12. This access will provide educational and viewing opportunities to local people as well as passing tourists. In addition, the boat ramp will provide another access point to the pond for waterfowl hunters. The north end of Pond 4 is the only existing boat access and in dry years may not provide access at all because of low water in the pond.

Total estimated cost for the project is \$35,059.

10. **Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

(a) **Permits:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
Army Corp of Engineers	#404	

(b) **Funding:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks	\$35,059

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional  
Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
--------------------	-------------------------------

Bureau of Reclamation	Owner of property
-----------------------	-------------------

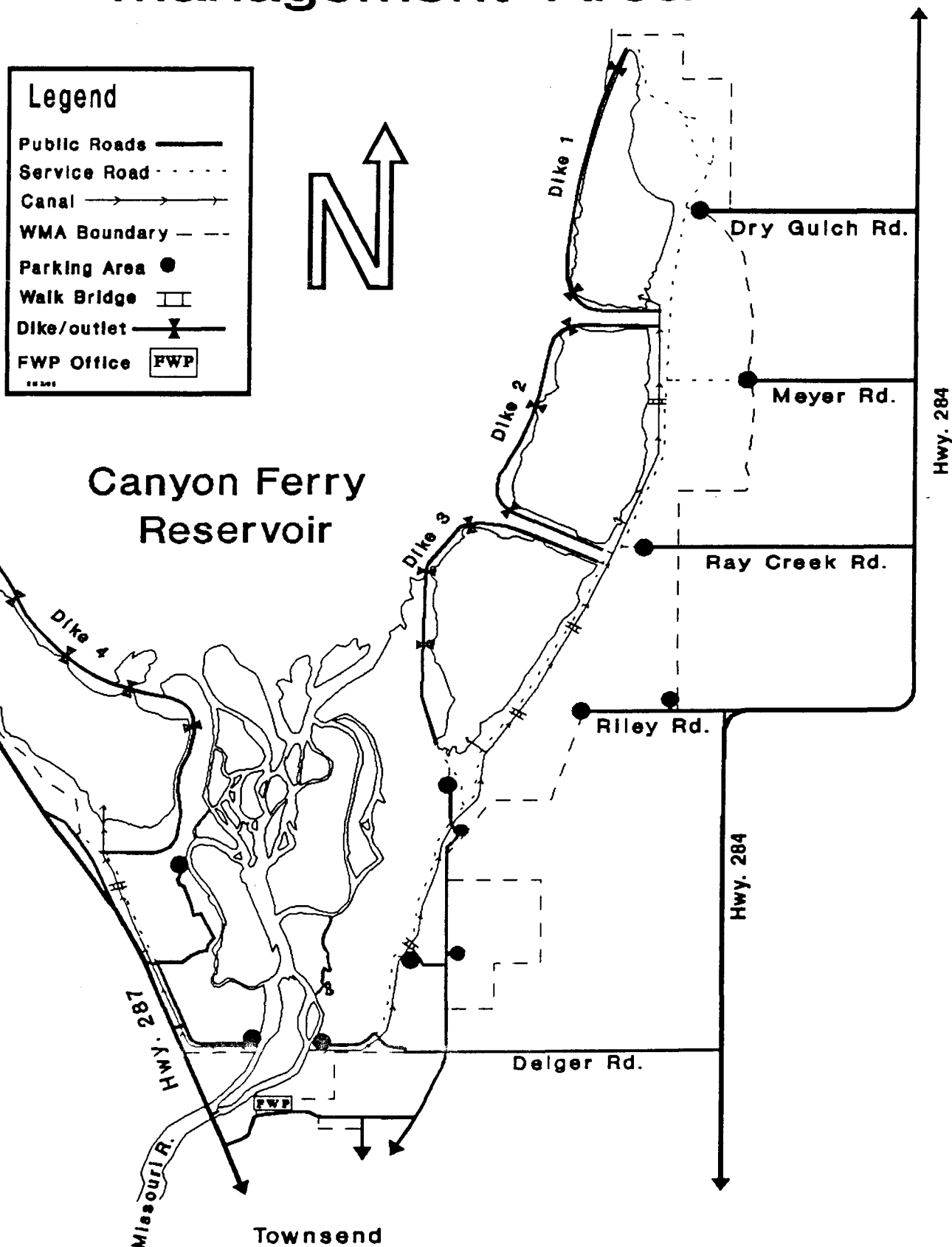
**11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:**

Bureau of Reclamation

FWP Design and Construction

Figure 1.

# Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area



## PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
> a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X			X
> c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other (list)		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

Project proposes to cover idle ground with fill material to provide a road surface and parking surface. Due to the small acreage involved (0.75) there are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects on the Land Resources.

2. AIR	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
> a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		X				
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ♦For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		X				
f. Other		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects on Air.

- Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- > Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

3. WATER Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?			X			X
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)		X				
m. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		X				
n. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects on Water.

☆

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦

Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X			X
b. Alteration of a plant community?			X			X
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				
f. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

Covering of ground may alter plant species, productivity or abundance and replace current vegetation with a less potentially productive surface. However, due to the small acreage and the fact that similar vegetation is not limited adjacent to the proposed project there are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects on Vegetation.

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.804-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?			X			X
h. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)		X				
i. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		X				
j. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

Increased human activity along the shore of Pond 4 will create a short term disturbance to waterfowl in the immediate vicinity, but will not have a cumulative impact on nesting or distribution.

Q

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦

Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?		X				
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects in relation to Noise or Electrical Effects.

7. LAND USE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects in relation to Land Use.

- Q Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects in relation to Risk/Health Hazards.

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects in relation to Community Impacts.

Q

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
> e. Define projected revenue sources			X			X
> f. Define projected maintenance costs.			X			X
g. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects on Public Services/Taxes/Utilities.

11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comm Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
>c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)			X			X
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		X				
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

This project will enhance recreational opportunities on the WMA by providing for better access to the area. There are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects on Aesthetics/Recreation.

- Q Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- > Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric, historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

There has been a cultural survey on the entire WMA in the past and recently a class III cultural review (see attached memo) was conducted on the Pond 4 access site by the Bureau of Reclamation archeologist. A cultural resource was detected on this site which was determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Construction activities will be monitored and if any items are discovered which may be of potential cultural value, construction activities will be halted and the Bureau of Reclamation archeologist will be immediately notified to review the items. Because there will be no surface disturbance in known cultural sites there are no Cumulative or Secondary Effects anticipated on Cultural/Historical Resources.

☆

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦

Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ♦For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		X				
g. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- > Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

2. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

No Action Alternative - The construction of the Pond 4 access would not be done.

3. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

Not Applicable

4. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

The appropriate level of analysis for these proposals is an Environmental Assessment (EA) and an EIS is not required. Based on this analysis there are no significant impacts on the Physical or Human Environment.

5. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

The EA was sent to a standard mailing list and put on the State bulletin board. A legal notice was also placed in the Townsend Star newspaper announcing the Proposed Action, detailing how to get information on the project, how to get copies of the EA, and how to comment on the proposal. A 21 day public comment period (February 3, 1999 to February 24, 1999) was set and this level of public involvement was felt to be appropriate given the magnitude of these projects.

6. Duration of comment period if any:

21 days.

7. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

Tom Carlsen  
Wildlife Biologist  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
P.O. Box 998  
Townsend, MT 59644  
406-266-3367

### **PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT**

1 b. Approximately 3\4 acre of idle ground will be covered with fill/surface material to provide for a road surface and parking surface. The area is currently idle land. Due to the small acreage involved the impact on soil is considered to be minor.

3a. Construction of the boat ramp may result in a short term increase in turbidity in the pond.

4 a & b. The site currently is vegetated by non-native grass species. The fill/surface material will cover this grass but due to the small area impacted (0.75 acres) this is a very minor impact.

5 g. Increased activity along pond 4 may result in short-term displacement of waterfowl when visitors are present. There will not be long-term impacts to local waterfowl populations.

10 e. The cost of the project will be funded by FWP's statewide WMA operation and maintenance dollars and will be a one time expenditure of funds for this project.

10 f. There will be some maintenance associated with this parking lot such as fence maintenance, signs, and parking lot surface maintenance. All these maintenance items occur on a very infrequent basis and will be incorporated into regular maintenance activities already occurring at other adjacent sites at little additional costs. Maintenance costs are estimated at around \$100-\$200 annually and funding will come out of existing FWP budgets.

11 c. There may be displacement of birds near the viewing platform, possibly affecting hunters during the waterfowl season. This effect is expected to be minor to non-existent as most viewing will probably take place during the summer months.



*Tom Carlson  
Townsend, FW*



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Great Plains Region

Montana Area Office

P.O. Box 30137

Billings, Montana 59107-0137



IN REPLY  
REFER TO:

MT-426

DEC 15 1998

DEC 16 1998

Paul Putz  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Montana Historical Society  
P.O. Box 201202  
Helena MT 59620-1202

CONCUR

MONTANA SHPO

DATE 1/6/99 SIGNED

*Josef*

*[Signature]*

Subject: Request for Comment - Cultural Resources Inventory for the 51 Ranch  
Fishing Access, Canyon Ferry Reservoir, Broadwater County, Montana  
MTAO No. MT-98-83

Dear Paul:

The Montana Area Office is proposing to approve a proposal by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks for the construction of an access to Pond 4 on Canyon Ferry Reservoir in Broadwater County, Montana. This access is also known as the 51 Ranch Access. The undertaking will involve the construction of approximately 7,500 feet of new road and fence, and the installation of a fishing access on the edge of the Reservoir. A more detailed description of the undertaking is presented in the attached cultural resources inventory report.

Based on these identification efforts, one cultural resource was detected. This site (24BW890) is a historic period site containing evidence of several ephemeral structures. Based on the survey data, Site 24BW890 does not appear to meet the significance criteria in 36 CFR Part 60.4 to be considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Your comments on this proposed determination are requested. If you have any questions concerning this information, please feel free to contact me at (406) 247-7315 or by e-mail at mandrews@gp.usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

*[Signature]*

Mike Andrews  
Area Archeologist

cc: Paul Valle  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
PO Box 200701  
Helena MT 59620-0701

Enclosure  
Subject Report





## **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

Helena Area Resource Office  
930 Custer Avenue W  
Helena, MT 59620

July 21, 1998

TO: Governor's Office, Julie Lapeyre, Room 204, State Capitol, POB 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801  
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106, POB 201704, Helena, MT 59620  
Dept. Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, POB 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
    Director's Office  
    Fisheries Division  
    Wildlife Division  
    Parks Division  
    Lands Section  
    Legal Unit  
FWP Commissioners  
MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, POB 201202 Helena, MT 59620-1202  
MT State Parks Association, POB 699, Billings, MT 59103  
MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., POB 201800, Helena, MT 59620  
James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624  
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, POB 595, Helena, MT 59624  
George Ochenski, POB 689, Helena, MT 59624  
Broadwater County Commissioners, Courthouse, Townsend, MT 59644  
Jerry DiMarco, POB 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771  
MT Wildlife Federation, POB 1175, Helena, MT 59624  
Glen Hockett, 745 Doane Road, Bozeman, MT 59715  
Skyline Sportsman's Assoc., Box 173, Butte, MT 59701  
Jefferson Valley Sportsman's Assoc., POB 663, Whitehall, MT 59759  
Prickly Pear Sportsman's Assoc., 1721 Virginia Dale St., Helena, MT 59601  
Senator Dan Hurwitz, PO Box 585, White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645  
Representative Gay Ann Masolo, 20 Duck Drive, Townsend, MT 59644

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed, please find the final decision notice for the expansion of the existing parking lot at the Ray Creek access to the Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area (CFWMA) and construction of a new parking lot off Riley Road that would access the WMA. These parking lot projects were being proposed to provide additional parking and improved access to the WMA due to increased use of the area by recreationist, primarily hunters. These projects occur on the Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area, which is located approximately 1 mile north of Townsend, MT and is situated along the south end of Canyon Ferry Reservoir. The area is administered by the Bureau of Reclamation and is managed by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks under a special agreement with Reclamation.

*Broadwater*

Decision Notice Letter

Page 2

July 21, 1998

Utilizing the EA and public comment, a decision must be rendered by FWP which addresses the concerns and issues identified for this proposed project. Both FWP's analysis and all public input supported this expansion and construction project. Additional parking would ease access and parking problems associated with the increased use on the WMA, particularly during the hunting. After review of this proposal, an EIS is not required and it is my decision to approve this expansion/construction project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Korn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Korn

Helena Area Resource Coordinator

enc.

## **DECISION NOTICE**

### **Canyon Ferry Wildlife Mangement Area Parking Lot Expansion/Construction Prepared by Region 3, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks July 21, 1998**

#### **PROPOSAL**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to expand the existing parking lot at the Ray Creek access to the Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area (CFWMA) and build a new parking lot off Riley Road that would access the WMA. These parking lot projects are being proposed to provide additional parking and improved access to the WMA due to increased use of the area by recreationist, primarily hunters. These projects occur on the Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area, which is located approximately 1 mile north of Townsend, MT and is situated along the south end of Canyon Ferry Reservoir. The area is administered by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and is managed by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks under a special agreement with BOR.

The Ray Creek access is the main parking area for accessing 2 of the ponds on the WMA. During opening day of waterfowl season 1997 there were over 50 vehicles parked in this one lot. Many hunters use boats to hunt from and because this parking lot is narrow and doesn't have the capacity to handle current use. Parking, especially with a boat trailer, is therefore very difficult. The proposed improvements to this parking area would be widening and lengthening the lot to increase parking capacity and overall accessibility.

The Riley Road parking lot would be a small parking facility with a capacity of 6 vehicles. This parking lot would access one of the agricultural leases on the WMA that receives use primarily by upland bird hunters and field hunting waterfowl hunters. No parking facility currently exists in this vicinity and so hunters park on the county road.

Total estimated cost for the 2 parking lots is \$15,635.

#### **MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT PROCESS**

FWP is required to assess impacts of the proposal to the human and physical environment. The CFWMA parking lot expansion/construction proposal and its effects were documented by FWP in an Environmental Assessment (EA) to satisfy the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

A 15 day public comment period on the EA ran from July 1, 1998 through July 15, 1998. A legal notice was placed in the Townsend Star detailing how to acquire copies of the EA and providing comment on the proposal.

No significant issues were generated during the public comment period and no revisions were

made to the Draft Environmental Assessment, which will therefore serve as the Final Environmental Assessment.

### **ISSUES RAISED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)**

The EA lists the issues in detail. These include soil disturbance and over-covering of soil with fill/surface material on less than one acre of idle land, covering of non-native grasses by fill/surface material, and costs associated with annual maintenance at these sites. All issues were considered to be minor in impact.

### **SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

As of July 15, 1998, the Department received one written comment. The person providing this written comment indicated a desire to have boat access to the ponds and river from the parking lots. The Riley Road parking lot does not provide access to the ponds or the river, therefore, no boat ramp could be built. The Ray Creek parking lot already provides access to boat ramps on ponds 2 and 3 during the waterfowl season.

### **DECISION**

Utilizing the EA and public comment, a decision must be rendered by FWP which addresses the concerns and issues identified for this proposed project.

Both FWP's analysis and all public input supported this expansion and construction project. Additional parking would ease access and parking problems associated with the increased use on the WMA, particularly during the hunting season.

After review of this proposal, an EIS is not required and it is my decision to approve this expansion/construction project.



Michael Korn

Helena Area Coordinator

Helena, MT

July 20, 1998

DRAFT  
**MEPA CHECKLIST**

Part I. Proposed Action Description

1. **Type of Proposed State Action** Replacement of rock riprap on the reservoir side of Cooney Dam.

2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action**

Owner: MT Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation; Sec. 85 -15, MCA .

3. **Name of Project** Cooney Dam Rock Rip Rap Replacement

4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)**

MT. Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, 48 N. Last Chance Gulch, P.O. Box 201601,  
Helena, MT 59620 – 1601 (406) 444-6646

5. **If Applicable:** Estimated Construction/Commencement Date October 25, 1999  
Estimated Completion Date December 1, 1999  
Current Status of Project Design (% complete) 75%

6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)**

Carbon County - Township 4S, Range 20E, Sec. 25 and 36.

7. **Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

(a) Developed:  
Residential ..... acres  
Industrial..... acres  
Open Space/  
Woodlands /  
Recreation..... 1 acre

(b) Wetlands/Riparian  
Areas ..... acres

(c) Floodplain..... acres

(d) Productive:  
Irrigated cropland ..... acres  
Dry cropland ..... acres  
Forestry ..... acres  
Rangeland ..... acres  
Other ..... acres

(e) Other: earthen dam.....3 acres

8. **Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.**

Vicinity map, topographic map and construction sketch attached.

**9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.**

Cooney Dam and Reservoir are located on Red Lodge Creek in Carbon County approximately 7 miles west of Boyd, Montana. The dam is owned by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. The earthfill dam is 102 feet high, has a crest length of 2369 feet, and impounds 28,230 acre-feet of water at full pool. The water is used for supplemental irrigation on approximately 20,000 acres. Additional benefits include recreational use and flood control, although no specific allocations to these uses currently exist. The original dam was completed in 1937. The dam was raised five feet in 1982. In addition to raising the dam crest elevation, the dam was rehabilitated to meet current dam safety standards. Cooney Dam is classified as a high hazard dam. A dam is classified as high hazard if failure of the dam would endanger lives and property downstream.

The proposed action involves the placement of approximately 1000 cubic yards of bedding rock and approximately 2200 cubic yards of rock riprap along the reservoir side of the dam. The rock riprap is to be obtained from an existing stockpiles immediately east and north of the dam. An excavator, front-end loader, and dump truck will be the equipment used for the project. All of the construction will be performed above the water level. The work is being performed to replace and enhance the existing riprap on the face of the dam. This protects the dam from erosion and serves to stabilize the earthen structure. The overriding goal of this project is to maintain the dam according to current dam safety standards, insuring the highest possible level of protection for the public and property located downstream from this high hazard dam. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) were contacted concerning the need for any environmental permits for this project. DEQ and FWP informed DNRC that no permits (e.g. 3A Authorization, 124 permit) are necessary due to all of the work being performed above the water level and no discharges occurring into the reservoir or Red Lodge Creek. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was also informed of the construction.

**10. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
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N/A



**10. (Continued)**

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
--------------------	-----------------------

The Rock Creek Water Users Association will pay 100% of the project cost. Total cost estimated range is \$30,000 to \$50,000.

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
--------------------	-------------------------------

N/A

**11. List of Agencies Consulted during Preparation of the EA:**

MT Dept. of Environmental Quality

MT Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

State Historic Preservation Office

## Part II. Environmental Checklist Review

### 1. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

#### IMPACTS

	Unknown *	No Impacts	Minor Impacts*	Potentially Significant Impacts*	Can Impacts be Mitigated*	Comment Index
1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u>						
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X			1b.
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other: _____						

1 b.) Site disturbance would occur on the reservoir side of the dam during construction. Some soil compaction may occur due to heavy equipment operation. 500 to 1000 cubic yards of material would be removed from a one acre area immediately north of the dam to serve as fill for the placement of the riprap. Effects would be minor in the short-term due to all of the work being performed in the immediate vicinity of the dam with very short travel distances from the fill removal location and the rock stockpile to the construction location. All of the construction will take place in areas previously disturbed in the 1982 dam rehabilitation project. Effects are negligible in the long-term because of reclamation of all disturbed areas.

**PHYSICAL  
ENVIRONMENT**  
(Continued)

**IMPACTS**

	Unknown*	No Impacts	Minor Impacts*	Potentially Significant Impacts*	Can Impacts be Mitigated*	Comment Index
<b>2. AIR</b>						
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality?			X			2a
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			X			2b
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. Other: _____						

2 a. & b.) During construction, heavy equipment emissions will contain some pollutants and odors.

**PHYSICAL  
ENVIRONMENT**

**IMPACTS**

Unknown*	No Impact	Minor Impacts*	Potentially Significant Impacts*	Can Impacts be Mitigated*	Comment Index
<b>3. WATER</b>					
Will the proposed action result in:					3a
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?	X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?	X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?	X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?	X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?	X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?	X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?	X				
h. Increase in the risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?	X				
i. Violation of the Montana Non-Degradation Statute?	X				
j. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?	X				
k. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?	X				
l. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?	X				
m. Other: _____					

3 a.) All construction will occur above the water level. No adverse affects will occur to downstream water users or to fisheries habitat.

**PHYSICAL  
ENVIRONMENT**  
(Continued)

IMPACTS

Unknown*	No Impacts	Minor Impacts*	Potentially Significant Impacts*	Can Impacts be mitigated*	Comment Index
<b>4. <u>VEGETATION</u></b>					
Will the proposed action result in:					
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?	X				
b. Alteration of a plant community?	X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered plant species?	X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?	X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X			4e
f. Other: _____					

4 e.) An increase in noxious weeds may occur due to soil disturbance and equipment operation. Effects are negligible in the long-term because of reclamation and weed control implementation.

**PHYSICAL  
ENVIRONMENT**  
(Continued )

IMPACTS

	Unknown*	No Impacts	Minor Impacts*	Potentially Significant Impacts*	Can Impacts be Mitigated*	Comment Index
5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u>						
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. Other: _____						

**2. HUMAN  
ENVIRONMENT**

**IMPACTS**

**6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL  
EFFECTS**

Will the proposed action  
result in:

a. Increases in existing  
noise levels?

b. Exposure of people to  
severe or nuisance noise  
levels?

c. Creation of electrostatic  
or electromagnetic effects  
that could be detrimental  
to human health or  
property?

d. Interference with radio  
or television reception and  
operation?

e. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Unknown*	No Impacts	Minor Impacts*	Potentially Significant Impacts*	Can Impacts be Mitigated*	Comment Index
		X			6a
		X			6b
	X				
	X				

6 a & b.) Noise levels will increase temporarily during the construction period.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**  
(Continued)

**IMPACTS**

	Unknown*	No Impacts	Minor Impacts*	Potentially Significant Impacts*	Can Impacts be Mitigated*	Comment Index
<p><b>7. LAND USE</b></p> <p>Will the proposed action result in:</p> <p>a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?</p> <p>b. Conflict with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?</p> <p>c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?</p> <p>d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?</p> <p>e. Other: _____</p>		<p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p>				



**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**  
(Continued)

**IMPACTS**

Unknown*	No Impacts	Minor Impacts*	Potentially Significant Impacts*	Can Impacts be Mitigated*	Comment Index
<p>8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u></p> <p>Will the proposed action result in:</p> <p>a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?</p> <p>b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?</p> <p>c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?</p> <p>d. Other: _____</p>	<p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p>				

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**  
(Continued)

**IMPACTS**

	Unknown*	No Impacts	Minor Impacts*	Potentially Significant Impacts*	Can Impacts be Mitigated*	Comment Index
<p>9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACTS</u></p> <p>Will the proposed action result in:</p> <p>a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?</p> <p>b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?</p> <p>c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?</p> <p>d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?</p> <p>e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?</p> <p>f. Other: _____</p>		<p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p>				

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**  
(Continued)

**IMPACTS**

	Unknown*	No Impacts	Minor Impacts*	Potentially Significant Impacts*	Can Impacts be Mitigated*	Comment Index
<p>10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/ TAXES/UTILITIES</u></p> <p>Will the proposed action:</p> <p>a. Have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify: <u>parks/recreational facilities</u></p> <p>b. Have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?</p> <p>c. Result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?</p> <p>d. Result in increased use of any energy source?</p> <p>e. Other: _____</p>		X				
		X				
		X				
		X				

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**  
(Continued)

**IMPACTS**

	Unknown*	No Impacts	Minor Impacts*	Potentially Significant Impacts*	Can Impacts be Mitigated*	Comment Index
<p>11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u></p> <p>Will the proposed action result in:</p> <p>a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?</p> <p>b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?</p> <p>c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational opportunities and settings?</p> <p>d. Other: _____</p>						
			X			11a
		X				
			X			11c

11 a & c.) Construction will temporarily affect the aesthetics of the area in the short-term. Some anglers and picnickers or campers may be impacted. The quality of the recreational opportunities and setting will be temporarily impacted during construction. The effects will be short-term and end with the completion of the project.

IMPACTS

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**  
(Continued)

	Unknown*	No Impacts	Minor Impacts*	Potentially Significant Impacts*	Can Impacts be Mitigated*	Comment Index
12. <u>CULTURAL/ HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u>						
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric, historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. Other: _____						

**3. SIGNIFICANCE  
CRITERIA**

**IMPACTS**

	Unknown*	No Impacts	Minor Impacts*	Potentially Significant Impacts*	Can Impacts be Mitigated*	Comment Index
<p>13. <u>SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</u></p> <p>Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:</p> <p>a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)</p> <p>b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?</p> <p>c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?</p> <p>d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?</p> <p>e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?</p> <p>f. Other: _____</p>			X			13a
		X				
		X				
		X				
		X				

13 a.) Short-term, temporary impacts will occur in the quality of the recreational opportunities and experience. All impacts are temporary, will end with the completion of the project, and will be mitigated by reclamation of any disturbed areas.

### Part III. Alternatives and Evaluation

1. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

A. No action - Would potentially result in erosion of the dam face. This could affect the integrity of the dam itself and increase the risk to the public and property downstream from a designated high hazard dam.

B. Proceed as planned with the project - This will have the beneficial effects of greatly reducing the likelihood of any erosion occurring, and protecting the integrity of the dam, thereby reducing downstream public and property risks associated with a high hazard dam.

2. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

All impacts cited are minor. Any areas disturbed by the construction would be reclaimed.

3. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why.

The EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.

Because of the short-term nature of the actual construction impacts associated with this project and the beneficial, long-term affects to the stability of the dam and to public safety, an EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.

4. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

The appropriate level of public involvement for this proposal is the publication of the proposed action in the Billings Gazette and the Helena Independent Record for two consecutive weeks in the legal notices section of the newspapers. This is an appropriate level of public involvement considering the minor, non-significant impacts of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action.

5. Duration of comment period if any: Copies of the EA can be obtained from the address listed below. Comments will be accepted and should be mailed to DNRC at the address listed below. Comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., October 18, 1999.

6. Name, title, addresses and telephone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

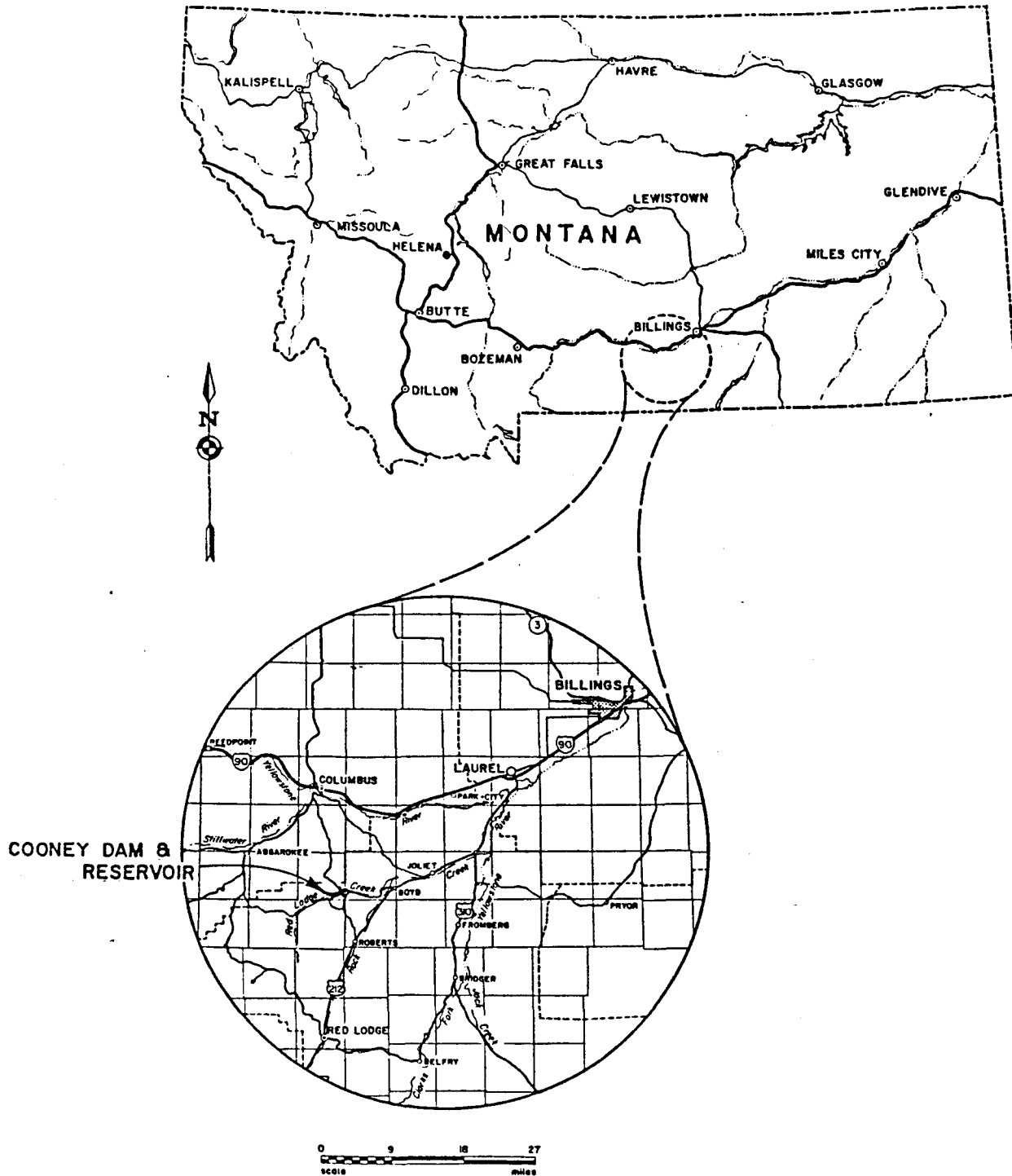
James P. Domino, Environmental Specialist, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Water Resources Division, State Water Projects Bureau, 48 N. Last Chance Gulch, P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601, (406) 444-6622.

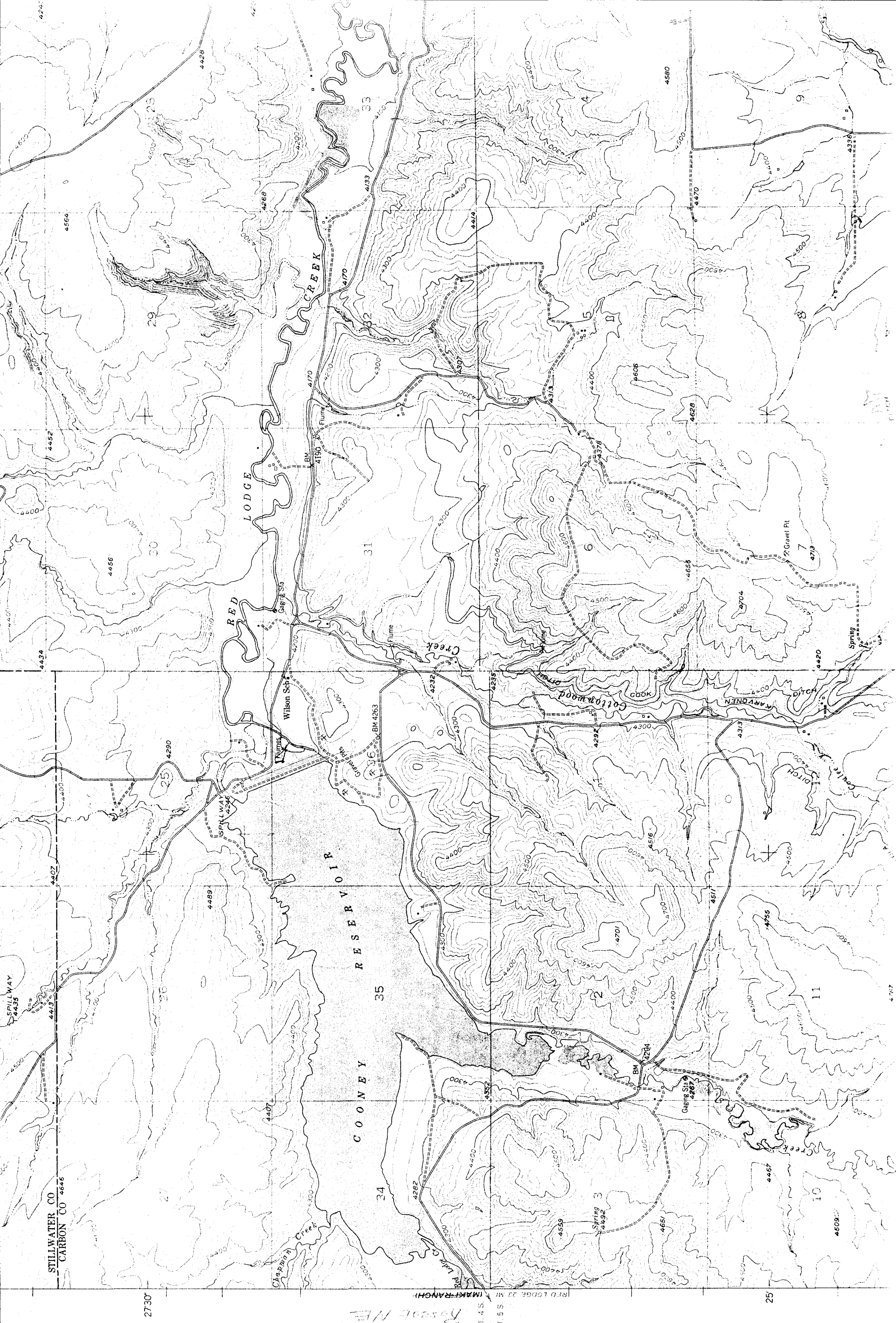
## Part IV. Narrative Evaluation and Comment

The project as proposed will not have any significant impacts. The impacts associated with the actual construction will be short-term and end with the completion of the project. Impacts associated with weed proliferation and the quality of the recreational experience will be mitigated by reclamation and weed control efforts. Any impacts to recreationists will end with the completion of the project. All of the work is being performed above the water level, so no impacts will occur to reservoir or Red Lodge Creek water resources. The long-term public benefits, including enhanced public safety and the protection of property downstream from a high hazard dam, outweigh any minor short-term, temporary impacts.



# GENERAL LOCATION MAP





STILLWATER CO  
CARBON CO 4646

COONEY  
RESERVOIR

RED  
CREEK

Gottwood  
Creek

Chapman  
Creek

Gravel Pit

Spring

Ditch

Cattle

HOLD

KARVONEN

Gravel Pit

Spring

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